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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,593	08/15/2005	Harald Holweg	003D.0055.U1 (US)	5791
29683	7590	08/03/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/526,593

Applicant(s)

HOLWEG, HARALD

Examiner

James R. Harvey

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3-4-05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### ***DETAILED ACTION***

#### ***Drawings***

- The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.
- In reference to Claim(s) 2, last line, the recitation ), “just before the complete compressing of helical springs” is not shown. While applicant's figures 4 and 7 show the springs in the complete compressed state there are not seen to be any drawings that are seen to address the instant before the springs are completely compressed so that the public is made aware of what does and what does not infringe upon applicant's claimed invention.

#### ***Claim Objections***

- The following claim(s) is/are objected to because of the noted informalities:
- \*\*\* There are numerous errors, the rejection lists a few of the required corrections as underlined. The entire application should be reviewed and corrected in order to bring the application into conformance with USPTO rules.
- Appropriate response to the above is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

- The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- Claim(s) 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 2, last line, the recitation, "just before the complete compressing of helical springs" is seen to be supported by applicant's drawings or specification. While applicant's figures 4 and 7 show the springs in the complete compressed state there are not seen to be any drawings that address the instant "just before the springs are completely compressed..." so that the public is made aware of what does and what does not infringe upon applicant's claimed invention. An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.

-- Appropriate correction of the above is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**\*\* Claim(s) 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Foreign Patent DE 10035726 that was cited on applicant's IDS dated 3-4-05. (herein referenced as 'DE 726).**

In reference to Claim(s) 1 and 2, 'DE 726 shows ( figures 1a-1c)  
a first housing (12,40), which can be locked in a mating connector 50 by means of  
locking arms 14; and  
a secondary locking mechanism 18 that can be loaded with a spring force 30, in which  
the secondary locking mechanism has tongues 20, which block the locking arms after they are  
engaged in the mating connector, as well as detent arms (22, left and right of centerline M figure

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1b), which are blocked by one edge 12s of the mating connector during the introduction process, until the locking arms are engaged, is hereby characterized in that the locking arms 14 then slide off the edge ( near the lead line of numeral 50v; figure 1b ) due to the spring force 30 that has been previously built up and press the secondary locking mechanism 18 into its final position, wherein the detent arms 14 have beveled catch pieces 16 on their free ends;

wherein ramps 40 on a part of the first housing (12, 40) move the detent arms away from the edge ( near the lead line of numeral 50v; figure 1b) just before the complete compressing of helical springs 30 ( figures 2a-2d).

In reference to Claim(s) 3, 'DE 726 shows the secondary locking mechanism is supported on housing (12,40 ) by means of at least one helical spring 30, wherein the helical spring or springs is or are relieved of strain when the plug-in connector is not plugged in as well as when it is plugged in ( figures 1a and 1c ).

In reference to Claim(s) 4, 'DE 726 shows the detent arms 14 are shaped like a pair of tuning forks with the catch pieces 16 protruding outward ( figure 1 ).

In reference to Claim(s) 5, 'DE 726 shows the housing (12, 40) has a connecting half 12 and a back half 120, which can be locked with on another ( figure 1c and in which the secondary locking mechanism 18 with the helical springs 30 is disposed.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

- Claim(s)6 has(have) allowable subject matter.
- Claim(s)6 is/ are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show the unique structure the secondary locking mechanism has pieces running crosswise to the plugging-in direction on opposite-lying sides, and these pieces engage in corresponding slots of a detaching aid surrounding the housing at least partially. This structure, in combination with all the other elements of the claim is not seen to be anticipated by the prior art and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.
- If the application becomes allowable, any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter".

### *Conclusion*

- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- Applicant is encouraged to send correspondence through the USPTO fax number 571-273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jrh  
July 25, 2006



James R. Harvey;  
Primary Examiner